

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

- Rod McClure, President

Over our first 25 years, the FRRS has acquired one of the most complete and comprehensive collections focusing on a single railroad family. This includes not only our big rolling stock items, but also an amazing paper and photo archive, personal stories and small items such as tools, signals and uniforms.

Along the way, we have also acquired items that, while they may have served us in the past, no longer fit our refined mission. Currently, the Society is engaged in a refinement and deaccession of pieces that don't serve our larger goals and can bring resources and funds to protect our main collection. This will mean that some "personal favorites" may leave, but we cannot save everything and we need to make hard choices to continue to protect what we have.

It is a fact that the economic times of the last few years have had an impact on our budget and fundraising. We have responded by seeking to hold down costs, eliminating or delaying some activities and looking for ways to boost revenue. Among the more visible signs of this is the 1 year old admission policy, which has given us a sizable increase in income. However, more is needed.

We hold one of the larger collections of railroad equipment and archives in the nation. While the FRRS has proven over the years to be very inventive at stretching a dollar and we keep running with fairly lean budgets by the standards of other organizations, it still costs to protect and preserve these things. Eventually, we will need to build covered storage for our pieces and expand our archives cataloging and preservation efforts. These things take funds.

We are rapidly approaching more hard decisions concerning our collection, particularly in terms of rolling stock. To achieve a sustainable level, either funding must increase or the size of the collection must decrease, or a combination of the two. While there are still non "mission critical" items to deaccess, the choices will get more difficult. The FRRS is taking several steps to mitigate this. We are increasing our fundraising outreach, looking for more revenue opportunities, cutting costs (the most noticeable of which is no longer

having a paid Museum Manager) and seeking to maximize the revenue we do get through our RAL program, admissions and store sales. We are also implementing an Equipment Sponsorship program. Anyone person, group or company who feels strongly about keeping or protecting an item in the Rolling Stock Collection will be able to "adopt" a locomotive or car and provide for its preservation.

We are also promoting our On-Line Store. If you need books, gifts, models or apparel, please visit <http://Store.WPLives.org> and take a look. All proceeds benefit the FRRS.

We are asking our members and friends to help us increase our capabilities to protect our amazing collection. Please consider the FRRS for a donation. We also need docents and volunteers both at the museum and for our off-site Roadshows, and for tasks that can be done remotely. For example, we need someone to take on management and promotion of the Equipment Sponsorship Program and volunteers to assist and manage several fundraising / revenue generation programs.

Together, we have built an outstanding historic organization in just 25 years. Together, we can make it even better. Several exciting new developments are on the horizon for 2012 and beyond.

If you want to help or need more information, please contact President Rod McClure, Secretary Eugene Vicknair or by email at TheNext25@WPLives.org or by post mail at FRRS – The Next 25, P O Box 608, Portola, CA 96122.

Donations can be mailed to FRRS- Funding, P O Box 608, Portola, CA 96122.

Thank you for your on-going support.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of the Train Sheet was delayed due to an error in the editorial process prior to printing. This has been corrected and the next issue should arrive to you shortly.